

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A system of dental appliances comprising:
2 a plurality of dental appliances wherein at least some of the plurality include a
3 non-numeric indicia designating an order in which each of the at least some of the plurality
4 are to be worn by a patient to provide dental treatment.

1 2. A system as in claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of dental
2 appliances comprise a polymeric shell having cavities shaped to receive and resiliently
3 reposition teeth from one arrangement to a successive arrangement.

1 3. A system as in claim 2, wherein each of the polymeric shells has at
2 least one terminal tooth cavity and the indicia comprises a terminal tooth cavity of differing
3 length in each of the polymeric shells .

1 4. A system as in claim 2, wherein each of the polymeric shell has a
2 height and the indicia comprises a different height in each of the polymeric shells.

1 5. A system as in claim 2, wherein the indicia comprises one or more
2 cutouts so that each polymeric shell has a different cutout pattern.

1 6. A system as in claim 5, wherein the cutout comprises a notch in an
2 edge of the appliance.

1 7. A system as in claim 1, wherein the indicia comprises a color wherein
2 each appliance has the same hue a different intensity.

1 8. A system as in claim 1, wherein the indicia comprises a color and the
2 color comprises a dissolvable dye.

1 9. A system as in claim 1, wherein the indicia comprises a color and
2 further comprising a wrapper removably attachable to each of the appliances, wherein each
3 wrapper has the color.

1 10. A system as in claim 1, wherein the indicia comprises a computer
2 readable element.

1 11. A system as in claim 10, wherein the computer readable element
2 comprises a barcode.

1 12. A system as in claim 10, wherein the computer readable element is
2 readable by wireless means.

1 13. A system as in claim 12, wherein the wireless means utilizes
2 radiofrequency.

1 14. A system of packaged dental appliances comprising:
2 a plurality of packages each containing a dental appliance, wherein the
3 plurality of packages are joined in a continuous chain designating an order in which each of
4 the dental appliances are to be worn by a patient to provide dental treatment.

1 15. A system as in claim 14, wherein the packages are each joined by a
2 perforation wherein the packages can be separated by breaking the perforation.

1 16. A system as in claim 14, wherein the packages are joined by a heat
2 seal.

1 17. A system as in claim 14, further comprising a marking on a package at
2 an end of the chain indicating the dental appliance to be worn first.

1 18. A system as in claim 14, wherein each of the plurality of dental
2 appliances comprise a polymeric shell having cavities shaped to receive and resiliently
3 reposition teeth from one arrangement to a successive arrangement.

1 19. A system of dental appliances comprising:
2 a plurality of dental appliances to be worn by a patient to provide dental
3 treatment; and
4 a framework, wherein each of the plurality of dental appliances are removably
5 attached to a portion of the framework.

1 20. A system as in claim 19, wherein each of the plurality of dental
2 appliances comprise a polymeric shell having cavities shaped to receive and resiliently
3 reposition teeth from one arrangement to a successive arrangement.

1 21. A system as in claim 19, further comprising at least one marking on the
2 framework indicating the order in which the appliances are to be worn by a patient.

1 22. A method of dispensing dental appliances to a patient comprising:
2 providing a plurality of packages wherein each of the packages includes a
3 polymeric shell having cavities shaped to receive and resiliently reposition teeth from one
4 arrangement to a successive arrangement, the plurality of package including a first package
5 containing a first shell to be worn by the patient to reposition the teeth from the one
6 arrangement to the successive arrangement and a second package containing a second shell to
7 be worn by the patient to reposition the teeth from the successive arrangement to another
8 successive arrangement;
9 delivering the first package to the patient at a designated time through a
10 remote delivery system; and
11 delivering the second package to the patient at a later designated time through
12 the remote delivery system.

1 23. A method as in claim 22, wherein the remote delivery system
2 comprises a mail delivery system.

1 24. A method of dispensing dental appliances to a patient comprising:
2 providing a dispenser including a plurality of dental appliances, wherein each
3 of the appliances comprises a polymeric shell having cavities shaped to receive and
4 resiliently reposition teeth from one arrangement to a successive arrangement, the plurality of
5 appliances including a first shell to be worn by the patient to reposition the teeth from the one
6 arrangement to the successive arrangement and a second shell to be worn by the patient to
7 reposition the teeth from the successive arrangement to another successive arrangement; and
8 removing the first shell from the dispenser wherein removal of the first shell
9 dispenses the second shell.

1 25. A method of dispensing dental appliances to a patient comprising:
2 providing a dispenser including a plurality of dental appliances, wherein each
3 of the appliances comprises a polymeric shell having cavities shaped to receive and
4 resiliently reposition teeth from one arrangement to a successive arrangement, the plurality of
5 appliances including a first shell to be worn by the patient to reposition the teeth from the one

6 arrangement to the successive arrangement and a second shell to be worn by the patient to
7 reposition the teeth from the successive arrangement to another successive arrangement; and
8 removing the first shell from the dispenser; and
9 actuating an actuator that subsequently dispenses the second shell.

1 26. A system as in claim 25 wherein the actuator comprises a lever, knob,
2 or button.

1 27. A package of dental appliances comprising:
2 a package including a plurality of dental appliances positioned in an
3 arrangement within the package which indicates an order of usage.

1 28. A package as in claim 27, wherein each of the appliances comprises a
2 polymeric shell having cavities shaped to receive and resiliently reposition teeth from one
3 arrangement to a successive arrangement, the plurality of appliances including a first shell to
4 be worn by the patient to reposition the teeth from the one arrangement to the successive
5 arrangement and a second shell to be worn by the patient to reposition the teeth from the
6 successive arrangement to another successive arrangement.

1 29. A package as in claim 27, wherein the arrangement comprises stacking
2 of the appliances.

1 30. A system of packages for dental appliances:
2 a plurality of packages configured for housing at least one dental appliance,
3 wherein each package includes a label having a non-numeric indicia indicating the order of
4 usage of the corresponding dental appliance.

1 31. A system as in claim 30, wherein the label includes a series of numbers
2 and the non-numeric indicia comprises a marking on one of the numbers.

1 32. A system as in claim 30, wherein the label includes a series of numbers
2 and the non-numeric indicia comprises a removal of one of the numbers.

1 33. A system as in claim 32, wherein the removal of one of the numbers
2 comprises a holepunch.

1 34. A system as in claim 30, wherein the a non-numeric indicia comprises
2 at least one shape.

1 35. A system as in claim 34, wherein the at least one shape comprises at
2 least one stripe.

1 36. A system as in claim 35, wherein the at least one stripe comprises a
2 series of stripes forming a barcode.

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